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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/016,739	01/30/1998	D. MICHAEL GODWIN	1002-0537	7368

7590 06/12/2002

BRADFORD G. ADDISON
MAGINOT, ADDISON & MOORE
BANK ONE CENTER TOWER
111 MONUMENT CIRCLE SUITE 3000
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 462045130

EXAMINER

UNDERWOOD, DONALD W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3652

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/016739

Applicant(s)

Godwin et al

Examiner

Underwood

Group Art Unit

3652

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/13/02
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-18, 20-25 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) NONE is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-18, 20 is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 21-25 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Detailed Action

1. Receipt of applicant's request for continued examination filed

March 13, 2002 is acknowledged. This request has been granted. An action follows.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 21, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burton in view of Wiechman or vice versa.

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It would have been obvious to substitute a boom and linkage as claimed for the boom and cylinder in Burton in view of the teaching in Wiechman or to provide a pin safety structure as claimed in Wiechman in view of the teaching in Burton.

5. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kovacs in view of Burton and Wiechman.

It would have been obvious to provide a coupling including the pin safety structure as claimed in Kovacs in view of the teaching in Burton and also obvious to use a box boom construction in view of the teaching of Wiechman (column 3, lines 45-47).

6. Claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20 are allowed.

7. Applicants' argument regarding their box boom has been carefully considered but is not deemed persuasive in view of Wiechman col. 3, lines 45-47.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Donald Underwood at telephone number 308-1113.

Underwood/dw

June 10, 2002

Donald W. Underwood 06/12/02
DONALD W. UNDERWOOD
PRIMARY EXAMINER